

3/20/2006

Planning Grant Process Overview

Prepared for the Program Committee of the California Service Corps

CSC is proud to announce that it has received 34 applications for a 2006 AmeriCorps planning grant with a total demand on funds of \$1,379,219. CSC has approximately \$1,000,000 to award and expects to be able to fund approximately 20 proposals. The following information is intended to serve as an overview of the remaining steps in the planning grant process.

Purpose

The 2006 AmeriCorps planning grants were available to high quality applicants who have identified a concept for an AmeriCorps program, but needed additional resources to plan, develop and prepare the program for implementation. The grant will provide successful applicants with up to \$50,000 to allow grantees to dedicate staff time to the planning process, hire consultants, travel to operating programs and CSC workshops, and support other planning needs. Grantees are expected to use the products generated during the planning process to complete a proposal for a 2007 AmeriCorps operating grant. Operating grant proposals from planning grantees will be due in mid-November 2006 and will compete for funding with CSC's general pool of applicants. Successful operating grant applicants will begin hosting AmeriCorps members in the fall of 2007. The award of a 2006 planning grant, however, is not a guarantee of an operating grant for 2007.

Products

In order to guide the planning process and facilitate the measurement of their progress, CSC requires all grantees to complete six grant products:

- The Partnership Form describing the proposed program's major partners their roles and the program's governance structure;
- Member Plans which will provide a blueprint for how the program will recruit, train, place, and utilize its AmeriCorps members;
- Financing Plans describing how a partnership will fund its proposed program.
- Performance Measurement and Evaluation Plans explaining how a partnership will evaluate its proposed program;
- Volunteer Management Plans depicting how partnerships will engage members in: recruiting, training, placing, supporting, and recognizing episodic and long-term community volunteers; and,
- Final Reports describing the process used by planning grantees, lessons learned, and other material to summarize the outcomes of the planning grant process.

TimeLine

Planning grant proposals have undergone a peer review process which concluded on March 15, 2006. The following processes will comprise the remainder of the grant review:

- March 20 Staff Interview Schedule Announced to Applicants
- March 22-28 CSC Staff Review and Phone Interviews

- March 30 Program Committee Conference Call Final Funding Decisions Made
- April 3 Planning Grantees Announced
- May 1-October 1 Planning Grant Contract Period.